**Demand for Local Telephone connection between Cuttack and Bhubaneshwar**

7460. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a growing demand for making the STD telephone betwen Cuttack and Bhubaneshwar as local telephone;

(b) whether Government of Orissa has made a request in that regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to fulfil this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Requests in this regard have been received from various quarters.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Request of the State Government has been considered. It is not possible to treat STD calls between Cuttack and Bhubaneshwar as loal calls under the existing rules because Cuttack and Bhubaneshwar telephone exchange system are situated in separate municipal areas under separate short distance charging areas with their charging centres more than 20 Kms distance apart.

**Private participation in Telecom Service**

7461. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent telecom services have been privatised;

(b) whether Government propose to increase private participation in telecom services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the new areas identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to involve private sector in supplementing DOT efforts for basic telecom services and also in areas such as Value Added Services.

(c) and (d) For provision of value added services, licences are being issued on application on non-exclusive basic except for cellular & paging services in which case tendering method has been adopted. For basic telecom services guidelines are being worked out.

**Modernisation of telecom services by Private Sector**

7462. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up programmes to privatise telecom services;

(b) if so, the areas demarcated for the purpose;

(c) whether modernisation of telecom services is proposed to be made through private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Govt. has announced new telecom policy whereby the private sector will be involved to supplement the efforts of DOT for providing telecom. services.

(b) Guidelines for this purpose are being worked out.

(c) and (d) Private sector will be involved to supplement the efforts of DOT for modernisation of telecom services.

**Report of D. N. Nanda Committee on Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**

7463. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: